P4 Reflection [Ian Chaplin]

Research

At first, I was attracted to Explorelab, mainly for its possibility to explore. Personally I find the required research already a very distinct and developed segment in exploration. When starting out to explore it is not wise to know what you are searching for. It can be that you have a hunch or believe that it is probable that you find something if you would tread on specifically un- or underexplored grounds.

These underexplored grounds are the understandings of Friedrich Nietzsche and Peter Sloterdijk on human behaviour in relation to the mechanics that Heidegger's introduced within his book Being and Time, in relation to the genealogy of the practice of architecture.

> **The positive effect** of this agile way of exploration is that you don't commit yourself to a biased understanding and prediction on a subject that you are probable to have incorrect and ill constructed notions on. Therefore you are able to develop personal and more nuanced ideas and are capable to escape after being caught by popular misunderstandings, what in case of these topics seemed and was unavoidable.

> **The downside** to this type of exploration, as you can imagine, is that you need to be very observing and controlled of your approach towards your surroundings, as every insight comes from instinct rather than prediction. At the start I therefore set myself the task to create a database which made it very easy to re-visit earlier summaries/ categories and findings and to link them with each other to create a critique of my most recent findings.

This process created a method in which my findings could be nuanced and distilled to a point where I would feel the need to respond to a specific problem for which I would then re-visit my findings and iteratively build a case.

In reflection of my research I could say that this was the only way this thesis could have come to be. The reason is, that normally when a research is done there is a choice of episteme in which one explores and one builds a case to research in and responds to in reference. In this case there is, as it where, no clear understandings of the topic to respond to. Therefore I have found it to be necessary to communicate my case through stitching together phenomena and mechanics that reveal the inner workings of this unexplored domain.

Research -> Practice

This communicative approach of using phenomena and mechanics to develop and construct my thesis was very fruitful for my project as well, it gave me the possibility to reflect my choices to in the project quite directly. This often led me to deter from a temporary inappropriate path, I had taken, as I found it to be contradictory to the level of being critically informed I was hoping my practice would have.

This relationship was one that accentuated the critiques I had on architecture at large with the help of personal developed methods. In this translation, on the other hand, I was quite careful that the autonomy which is reserved for ideas and words doesn't translate to a physical form, but only informs my own approach. Through this distinction my project doesn't merely translate my thoughts, but mainly shows how I practice **artfully** as an architecture student on a **context** in a way where I am informing myself as an individual **logically** on the reasons why I am attracted to **act** a certain way through my connection to the discipline.

Research -> location

With the choice of location I am very pleased. I set myself up with a location which until now could only be reacted to by architects with very unsatisfying and even atrocious projects which have been made by, what we in the domain of architecture call, most outstanding and critical architects like: West8 , OMA, Tschumi, Busquets, Ceriani, Balmond, Arets . This problem case I hypothesized was due to the way we are used to practice architecture, I projected that if it was approached with some of the new methods I devised it would generate a more satisfying result and thus show what the value is of these methods are in comparison to, what now generally is considered to be the best.

One of the two other reasons I have chosen the Binnenrotte to work on, is the fact that I on a weekly basis go to the site and participate in its use as a market. From this perspective it is easier to imagine how I and other people would make use of my design. To be able to envision appropriately the way the project would be engaged with. Secondly, the site gave me a reason and possibility to study such an interesting and complex location about which a lot of material is ready to hand and for which I was so eager to dissect.

Project/research -> Wider social context

The project and research critiques those fraction in the domain of architecture that try to broaden the scope of architecture by borrowing critical positions and techniques of rhetoric's of other communicative practices, which do not add value to the project or the field but merely re-create political weight. And thus sets out to protect the realistic quality of architecture in the society at large. To do this it also researches and projects more adequate methods of addressing those issues that precisely create an advancement of the practice to fulfilling an adequate response on contemporary society

Did it work?

It is difficult to say if it could work. I am happy to say that it is not impossible for it to work, which was my hope to start with. If I was to be sure that it would work, then it wouldn't be new as it necessitates reference material to come to such a conclusion.

Addition

After the last trial p4 I set myself the job to finish the projects. In the last couple of months I have come to realize that to do this I need far more time. As all the elements are so critical they require a lot of sophisticated answers that for me, when addressing merely one of these have shown to be a tiresome job. I think the project has a value in total, but that to finish the other two projects I would need a few years extra time and maybe some more experience. I am satisfied with the result of the single "sector" nonetheless and am convinced it shows an approach which makes the two other parts speak more to the imagination.